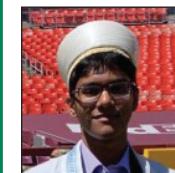


# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

## Inside Stories



Greenbelters at Faith Event, p.4 GAC presents Dr. Faustus, p.3

VOL. 84, No. 26

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

MAY 20, 2021

### Budget 2022

## With Three Weeks to Go, Budget Is Still Up in Air

by Diane Oberg

In recent years, the Greenbelt City Council has worked out its desired changes to the city manager's proposed budget at a final budget worksession in advance of the second public hearing on the budget so that citizens are not surprised by what is presented for adoption and have an opportunity to comment before passage.

That is not what happened this year at the final budget worksession on May 17 for Fiscal Year 2022, which starts on July 1. The public hearing is scheduled for May 24, but it appears unlikely that council will have reached consensus on its modifications to the manager's budget by then.

Reaching agreement was bound to be difficult under any circumstances as the proposed budget revenues were just \$1,000 more than expenditures. By law,

the city's budget must balance. And the city's reserves were just 17.8 percent of expenditures, on the low side of the 17 to 20 percent recommended by Greenbelt's financial advisors. After the budget presentation, the city learned that its workers compensation premiums are going up by \$200,000 and will likely be even higher the following year.

Over the course of the budget worksessions since late March, council had amassed a list of possible additions to the budget. City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon priced these items and found they totaled \$1.4 million. By the end of the final budget worksession, this unfunded wish list had swollen to \$2.084 million. Consistent with past sentiments,

See **BUDGET**, page 8

## Sculpture Gets a Makeover As Conservators Do a Scrub

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Mari Hagemeyer and Howard Wellman prepare to clean a frieze on Tuesday, May 11. Wellman is using a soap called orvis that leaves no residue.

Roosevelt Center's Mother and Child statue got a special scrub-down last week as a team of three skilled art conservators arrived to clean and maintain Greenbelt's beloved statue as well as the Community Center Preamble reliefs.

The first step was to apply a special detergent, sodium lauryl sulfate, an anionic and non-acidic surfactant which does not etch or sink into the stone to damage it later. The second step is to apply a biocide to kill lichens that sink their roots into the limestone. A second scrub with the detergent reveals if the statue is clean. The conservators were pleasantly surprised to find that the dirt was less tightly adhered than might be expected and the stone was not as prone to crumbling as they might have feared.

See **SCULPTURE**, page 2

## FEMA Vax Site at Metro Gives Its 100,000th Shot on May 13

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Although the site is now scheduled to close down on Tuesday, June 1, the FEMA site at the Greenbelt Metro Community Vaccination Center has administered more than 100,000 shots to help bring the world closer to normalcy.

On Thursday, May 13, Ana, a resident of Maryland, arrived for a Johnson & Johnson vaccine near the end of the day. It was a true family affair; she was accompanied by her niece, who had been vaccinated at the center earlier. Friends and family had recommended the site. "I feel good. I did it for my health, for my children, for my family. I need to be well, that's why I decided to come to get vaccinated,"

Ana said when asked why she got vaccinated.

"The FEMA Community Vaccination Center in Greenbelt has played a key role in the state's efforts to fight Covid-19," said Maryland Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Russ Strickland. "This is a truly rewarding partnership between state, local and federal agencies to help keep Maryland residents safe."

"The Greenbelt Vaccination Center has showcased the combined effort of a whole community, from the federal partners, state, local, private sector and volunteers who have been instrumental in achieving this amazing milestone," said FEMA Region 3 Acting Regional Administrator Janice Barlow. "It's a privilege to

See **VACCINE**, page 12

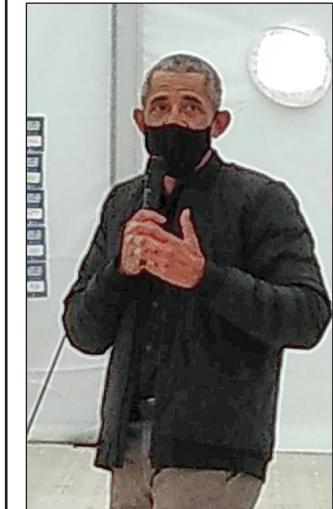


PHOTO BY LOIS BARR

Former President Barack Obama visits the FEMA vaccination site at the Greenbelt Metro Station on Thursday, May 6. See story, page 12.

## Smoothly Run Council Meeting Navigates Polarizing Agenda

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council meeting of May 10 was more to the point, more polite, less divisive and far shorter than has recently been the case, presumably as a result of discussions the week before on demeanor and process. Though still frosty, the interactions in council remained professional and relatively unmarred by discord on an agenda that held many opportunities for contention.

The meeting (partially addressed in the May 13 News Review) included a number of items submitted for first reading by Mayor Colin Byrd. The first would have council hold a monthly public hearing on crime statistics. Byrd moved for a second reading and adoption, noting that he anticipated many amendments and describing the purpose as being to set aside time, month-

ly, for a "quick overview of the crimes seen in the previous month." Councilmember Silke Pope wondered why a resolution was needed and whether doing this would cause more work for staff. Byrd thought it would not.

Against a chorus of frenzied barking from the dog pound, Police Chief Richard Bowers explained that the previous month's crime reports aren't available until two weeks after that month's end, meaning that some data would be 45 days old when discussed. He also noted that the process of formulating the data is labor intensive. Councilmember Judith Davis suggested that reviewing trends might be more informative and pointed out there was also a risk that such a session could become a forum for the airing of individual griev-

ances. She warned that council should consider how much meeting time it would take and tailor its agenda accordingly, shortening it to allow the time. Councilmember Edward Putens thought that increased statistical information on crimes would be more helpful, but felt that localized meetings in different parts of the community would be more productive. He said he would rather see the police department focus on staffing/training given its current staff shortages. Councilmember Leta Mach was in favor of a pilot project and Councilmember Emmett Jordan said he would prefer to incorporate such a review in the quarterly update from the city manager – following the pattern already in place. The item was postponed until May 24.

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

### What Goes On

**Thursday, May 20**

**1 to 3 p.m.** Free Produce Distribution, Community Center

**Monday, May 24**

**8 p.m.** City Council Second Budget Public Hearing: Constant Yield Tax Rate

**Wednesday, May 26**

**8 p.m.** Council Worksession with GEAC: Stakeholders

All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltdmd.gov](http://greenbeltdmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



PHOTO BY PGCPSS

This monster by Nora C., a first grader at Greenbelt Elementary School, is on display in the Prince George's County Schools virtual art show at [pgcps.org/offices/creative-and-performing-arts/creative-arts-program/visual-arts-program/virtual-student-art-exhibit](http://pgcps.org/offices/creative-and-performing-arts/creative-arts-program/visual-arts-program/virtual-student-art-exhibit).

## Letters to the Editor

### GHI Thank You

I want to thank all of the members of GHI for their support over the 30 years that they saw fit to allow me to serve them as their Treasurer, member of the Board of Directors and Audit Committee member. It has been an honor to serve them. I hope to continue to serve as a member of the Finance and Investment committees and in any way that benefits our great cooperative.

Chuck Hess

### Firefly Mowing?

I loved the article on page 7 of last week's edition, New Firefly Sanctuary Opens in Stream Valley Park, which highlighted the signage (good to see and read) as well as the reasons for letting some of our parks "go wild." Recently I noticed that Public Works had mowed most of the Stream Valley park open space area leaving just the edges to continue to grow wild, so

wondering – will the city keep mowing the majority of this open space in the next few months or will they leave it alone so that the fireflies can develop in that larger area?

Joe Robbins

### DEIS Article Comments

In the front-page article in the May 13 issue of the News Review, there are two errors in the last sentence of the first paragraph. The staff recommendation and the motion passed refer to the council receiving the final comment letter at the city council meeting of May 24, not May 23. I do not recall Mayor Byrd "noting that ... responses to the DEIS are due the next day" so I reviewed the video of the meeting and I did not hear the mayor saying this. The video is available online at City Council 5/9 (accessed by clicking on Municipal Access TV on the city website) and this discussion is between

1:02:00 and 1:31:20.

Ben Fischler

Editor's Note: The next council meeting is indeed on Monday, May 24.

### Just Stay Put

In regard to the recent articles and letters on transportation modes in the News Review: Let's get over our obsession with being where we are not.

Any transit, maglev or other, that takes us out of Greenbelt and has us expend our monetary resources on that transit and on distant products, hurts Greenbelt.

Better we stay within walking/bicycling distance of Greenbelt and invest our resources right here, and ditch any non-essential automobiles, as I did mine in 2005.

Let's reserve the powered vehicles for the paraplegics who really need them.

Bill Norwood

## SCULPTURE continued from page 1

important, and this is why we can have these things around for generations."

The conservation team brought a wealth of specialized knowledge and practical experience to the task of cleaning these 80-plus-year-old limestone carvings. Howard Wellman works on objects for museums, archaeological projects and government agencies, including outdoor sculpture, monuments and historic cemeteries. Working alongside Wellman were Connie Stromberg and Hagemeyer. Stromberg has worked at sites including Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian, the U.S. Capitol and more. She studied sculpture at Carnegie Mellon University and earned an M.S. in sculpture conservation from the Winterthur/University of Delaware program in the conservation of artistic and historic objects. Hagemeyer has a B.S. in materials science and engineering with a minor in French from the University of Maryland, and has worked with the U.S. Navy Underwater Archaeology Branch, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's objects lab and the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

Lenore Thomas Straus (1909-1988) studied at the Chicago Art Institute, but was largely self-taught. She moved to the D.C. area in 1935 and began working for the Resettlement Administration and Works Progress Administration. In addition to the Preamble reliefs (1937) and Mother and Child (1939), Straus created terra cotta murals for post offices in Fredonia, Kan.; Covington, Va.; Leetonia, Ill.; and Webster Springs, W.Va. Straus sculpted a giant frog playground

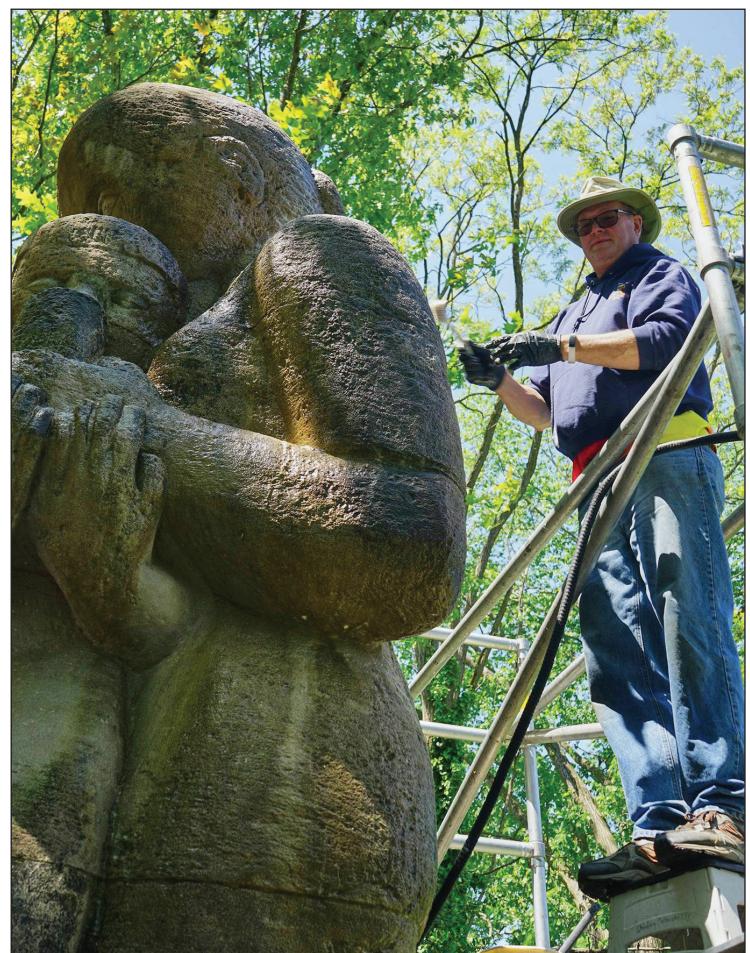


PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

Howard Wellman gently cleans the Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center.

sculpture for Langston Terrace, the first federally funded housing project in Washington, D.C., around 1940. She also created works for the Alice Ferguson Farm in Accokeek, where she lived and worked in the early

1940s and where she married Robert Ware Straus. Straus spent the last 20 years of her life in Blue Hill, Maine, where several of her sculptures may be seen at the Morgan Bay Zendo and the Blue Hill Public Library.

### Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.

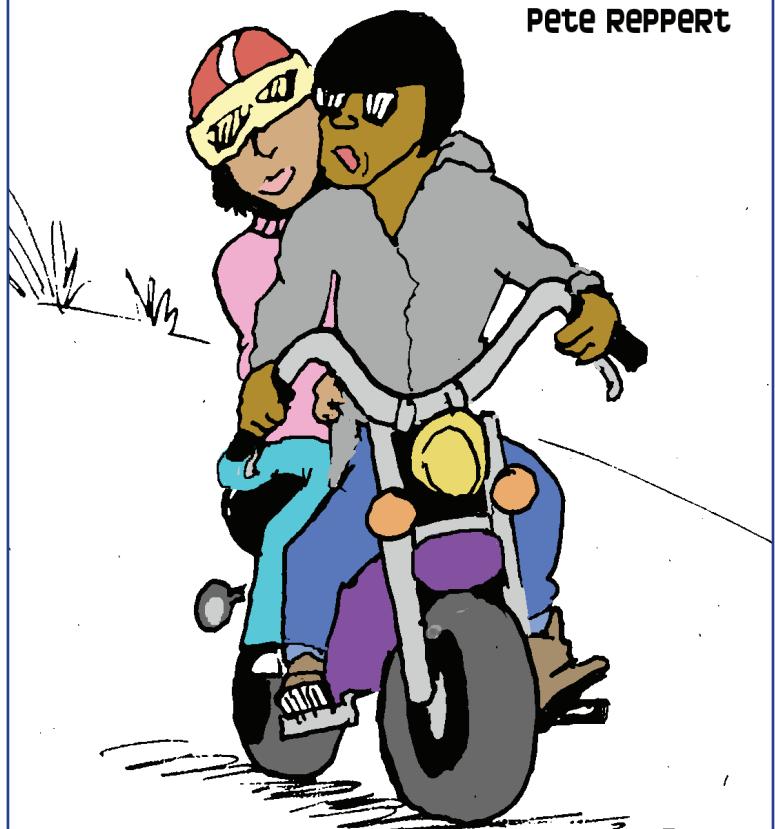


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Pete REPPER



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[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)

## Greenbelt News Review

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- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

# Community Events

## At the Library

The Greenbelt Library has reopened with limited services by appointment. Appointments can be made at pgcmls.info/re-opening or 240-455-5451 for one hour of computer use or 15 minutes of browsing borrowable library materials. Reservations can be made up to seven days in advance.

Curbside service remains available, also by appointment only. Hours: Tuesdays, 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Items for curbside pickup should be retrieved from the table placed outside the lower-level entrance, which is marked with signs indicating the four separate pickup spots. Customers arriving in a vehicle may park in the parking lot, but staff will not come to their vehicle unless a customer indicates a special need for assistance in their appointment request. To ensure the health and safety of everyone, all customers must wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines to maintain a contact-free process. Customers are reminded that the curb in front of the library entrance is both a fire lane and a delivery zone.

Greenbelt also now has mobile printing available. More information is available at pgcmls.info/mobile-printing.

### Vaccine Assistance

PGCMLS offers an English and Spanish Covid-19 Vaccine Hunter Hotline at 240-392-3622 operating Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The hotline will assist by directly booking vaccination appointments, adding people to vaccine pre-registration lists and answering questions about the vaccination process.

### Kids Achieve Club

The Kids Achieve Club program provides academic support with homework assistance and reading practice in English for Speakers of Other Languages for students in grades 1 to 6. The program was created to support the unique needs of English learners to foster a love of reading and to provide academic support.

## Foundation Showcases Local Groups in June

Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) announced its 2021 Showcase will be streaming all weekend long June 5-6. The showcase, viewable online, will feature past grant recipients sharing their passion and talents.

Groups being featured in the hour-long showcase include Higher Achievement, GIVES, The Space: Free Art for All, Greenbelt Arts Center, Friends of the New Deal Café, Greenbelt Archive Project, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, the Old Greenbelt Theatre, Alex and Olmsted and Eleanor Roosevelt High School students.

Every year GCF hosts a Showcase so donors can see the effect that donated dollars have made to the local community. This year, for everyone's safety, GCF has elected to hold this fundraiser online.

To buy a ticket to the showcase or to make a donation, visit [GreenbeltFoundation.org](http://GreenbeltFoundation.org).

## Vigil and March

On Tuesday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. on the grassy area in front of the library, residents of Greenbelt can join the Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance and other community groups to help Bridge Communities to Stop the Violence as well as to commemorate George Floyd and countless others who have been injured and/or killed by police or vigilantes. The community must continue to show unity in these trying times in order to stop the hatred, violence and injustice that plagues communities of color, our local community and our country. Following a short program, the group will walk to the Spellman Overpass to remember the victims of police and vigilante brutality. Join in and bring signs and/or candles. Free bus service is available from Franklin Park. Residents should meet at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SHLRC) by 6:15 p.m. The bus will return at 8:20 p.m. from the Greenbelt Library to the SHLRC.

For more information, contact Carla Johns at 240-429-7911 or [crickett9599@aol.com](mailto:crickett9599@aol.com).

## Astronomical Society Black Hole Lecture

On Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) welcomes all to hear Dr. Sayali Avachat speak on "Black Holes and Gravity." She will discuss key aspects in the history of gravity and important milestones in the discovery of black holes.

Dr. Avachat has a Ph.D. in space sciences from the Florida Institute of Technology and is currently working as astrophysicist/education advisor for the Etelman Observatory at the University of the Virgin Islands. She conducts science workshops for school children that feature hands-on learning and toy building activities.

All are welcome to join this Zoom lecture, whether members of ASG or not. For those interested, the Zoom session will open a half-hour early for meet-and-greet. A Zoom link will be posted before the meeting on the Astronomical Society's website, [greenbelastro.org](http://greenbelastro.org).

## Help With Trails



PHOTO BY LORI DOMINICK

### Canyon Creek Trail between 58 and 62 Courts of Ridge Road

It's time for spring maintenance of GHI trails. Volunteers who want to help take care of the trails should meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 22 at the Canyon Creek Trailhead between 58 and 62 Ridge Road.

The job is to improve trail tread drainage to reduce erosion and muddy spots on the trails, cut back brush intruding or likely to intrude on trails, assess trail conditions and needs for additional maintenance, and carry out invasive species management and restorative planting along the trail. Wear shoes and clothes to be ready for trail work, insects, sun or rain. Gloves and tools will be provided by the GHI Woodlands Committee. Since the best time to observe trail drainage is during or after rain, this activity will proceed rain or shine (except for strong winds or lightning conditions). It starts on the Canyon Creek Trail and – depending on participants, interests and time – may also cover GHI trails from Plateau Place and Laurel Hill.



## Roosevelt Virtual Dance Concert

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Department of Performing and Fine Arts presents its virtual 2021 Inaugural Dance Concert, It Was All a Nightmare: Social Justice Realities.

The cast features Jordan Logan and Makayla R. Thomas of the Repertory Ensemble as well as dancers from all class levels.

To view the concert, go to [schools.pgcps.org/eleanorroosevelt](http://schools.pgcps.org/eleanorroosevelt).



NASA Goddard's Music and Drama Club presents: 

## Lady Windermere's Fan

by Oscar Wilde

a staged reading directed by Randy Barth



Live Online: Saturday, May 22 at 8pm

[madtheater.org](http://madtheater.org)



The Rude Mechanicals in residence at Greenbelt Arts Center present:



## Doctor Faustus

by Christopher Marlowe, directed by Claudia Bach

Online: Fri & Sat, May 21-22. Suggested donation: \$10

[rudemechanicals.com](http://rudemechanicals.com)

Coming Soon: Old-Time Radio Show Live Performance June 19.

## This Weekend GAC

### Presents Doctor Faustus

The Rude Mechanicals in Residence at Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) will present Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus live online Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22.

Written in the 1590s, Doctor Faustus is the classic story of a man who makes a pact with the devil. Director Claudia Bach will set this production in a modern, internet-forum world as Faustus connects with some dangerous minds online and is dragged into a world of conspiracy, magic and evil. After making a deal with a servant of Hell to unlock the truth and powers of the world, Faustus gets more than he bargained for when his payment comes due. Set on a backdrop of Reddit, fake news and internet indoctrination, this production explores what it means to access the truth and to confront reality, whatever it may be.

Bach said, "With a full year now to reflect on isolation and digital connection, the project of a modern, digital Doctor Faustus arose very naturally. Faustus is a man who is deeply frustrated

and is desperate for any voice that offers him ultimate hidden truth, regardless if it goes against everything that he knows to be good."

In order to portray the internet panoply of commenters, conspiracy theorists and retweeters creating a vast echo chamber, Bach chose to have the part of Mephistopheles played by many actors. Each member of the cast brings their own interpretation to the incarnation while together creating a cohesive voice.

Bach continues, "It is my hope that those watching this production can enjoy a modern take on the classic tale of a deal with the devil while considering the contemporary implications of collective conspiracy."

During Covid-19, GAC is bringing online productions of important works to the residents of Greenbelt and the surrounding area. There is a suggested donation for viewing the show, which will support both the GAC and The Rude Mechanicals. For more information visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).



PHOTO COURTESY RUDE MECHANICALS

Bill Bodie as Doctor Faustus and Jackie Youm as Mephistopheles perform in Greenbelt Arts Center's production of Doctor Faustus.

## Sign Petitions Against Maglev

Sunday, May 23, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt Farmers Market. Petitions against the proposed maglev train will be available for signing. This is an important issue for our city as well as for our county.



## Paint Out Picnic

Join Artist-in-Residence Racquel Keller to paint in Buddy Attick Park on Sunday, June 6. Sign up for one of two timeslots, 11 a.m. to noon or noon to 1 p.m. Participants may bring their own materials or receive a basic set of paints and supplies from Greenbelt Recreation Arts. Sign up at [signupgenius.com/go/paintoutpicnic](http://signupgenius.com/go/paintoutpicnic). This event is free.



**GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION**  
Friday May 21 - Thursday May 27

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Cicada Invasion Coverage!
8 am	Democracy Now!	Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	Classic Movies 	Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Musical/Comedy • 1952 Road to Bali Bing Crosby • Bob Hope • Dorothy Lamour Directed by Hal Walker The Sixth of Seven Crosby/Hope Road Movies
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS	Elementary Edition Allenwood v Judge Woods
2 pm	Music at the New Deal Café S2E3	Rumpus • Jazz and Blues band
3 pm	Classic Movies 	Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Musical/Comedy • 1952 Road to Bali Bing Crosby • Bob Hope • Dorothy Lamour Directed by Hal Walker The Sixth of Seven Crosby/Hope Road Movies
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS	Elementary Edition Allenwood v Judge Woods
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Cicada Invasion Coverage!
7 pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8 pm	Classic Movies 	Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Musical/Comedy • 1952 Road to Bali Bing Crosby • Bob Hope • Dorothy Lamour Directed by Hal Walker The Sixth of Seven Crosby/Hope Road Movies
10 pm	Music at the New Deal Café S2E3	Rumpus • Jazz and Blues band
11 pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
Midnight	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Cicada Invasion Coverage!

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## Two Greenbelt Faith Leaders Participate in Event with Hogan

By Mahfuz Rahman and Zayd Mahfuz

On Thursday, May 13, Governor Larry Hogan and faith-based leaders met at the second annual "Faith Leaders United Against Covid-19" event which was held at FedEx Field. The event was to recognize the important role that faith-based institutions have played in delivering vaccines to communities across Maryland that may be difficult to reach or are disproportionately affected by Covid-19. Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, Maryland Health Secretary Dennis Schrader and Brigadier General Janeen Birckhead also attended

the event.

From the invited faith leaders, a Greenbelt resident, Mahfuz Rahman, represented the Diyanet Center of America (DCA), a mosque located in Lanham. In addition, Zayd Mahfuz, who is an alumnus and graduate from DCA's Hifz Quran memorization program and also a rising senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School conducted the benediction prayer. Zayd said that DCA has already hosted one vaccination event and will continue to work with local partners to facilitate more vaccination events.



Zayd Mahfuz, right, stands with Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford.



Zayd Mahfuz, a rising senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, gives the benediction at the faith-based event to promote vaccines.

### Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

### Greenbelt Baptist Church

Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm  
Sunday School 9:45am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
301-474-4212



### Greenbelt Community Church

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

### ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

## Obituaries

### Yoshiko Waeldner

Yoshiko Isobe Waeldner of Greenbelt died peacefully on Thursday, May 13, 2021. She was the wife of the late Robert Waeldner. She is survived by her sister Hisa Eguchi of Nagoya, Japan. She is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews and devoted friends.

She was a longtime supporter of The Japanese Americans' Care Fund.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church on Monday, May 17. Interment was private.



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY



PHOTO BY HELENOR MESIAS

### News Review Pilots New Payment Option

The News Review is piloting a new payment option, Zelle, that will allow most of our advertisers and subscribers to pay their bills electronically.

Customers can access this service through many banks' mobile apps and online banking websites or by downloading the Zelle app. Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

For a list of banks participating in Zelle, go to [zellepay.com](http://zellepay.com) and then click on "Get Started." For more information, click on "How it Works."

We encourage our customers to take advantage of this secure payment system which will eliminate mail delays and, more importantly, eliminate the opportunity for check fraud.



### Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

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301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page [@mowattumc](https://facebook.com/mowattumc).  
10 a.m. Sunday mornings



"There can be no doubt whatever that the peoples of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from one heavenly Source, and are the subjects of one God." – Bahá'u'lláh

### Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

### Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 23 10 a.m.

#### The Three Mothers

Rev. Lynn Strauss, Minister; with Worship Associate Diana McFadden

Reverend Strauss will reflect on the groundbreaking book by educator, Anna Malaika Tubbs, The Three Mothers. Join us in celebration of Black mothers, most particularly, the mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin.

ONLINE ONLY Streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news>



Our condolences to the family, friends and fellow parishioners of Yoshiko Waeldner, who died recently. She was a member of St. Hugh Catholic Church.

Congratulations to Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz, the newest student PGCPS Board Member and a student at ERHS.

Congratulations to Lori Dominick on retiring from University of Maryland Food Services after 30 years of service. In honor of her service, The Dairy has named one of their original ice creams after her: Lori's Legacy. Stop by The Dairy, located in the Stamp Student Union, for a taste of this chocolate treat.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



### CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

For ZOOM link:  
[FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)



# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 24, 2021 8:00 p.m.

### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)

Approval of Agenda and Additions

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Presentations

- Annual Legislative Wrap-Up

- LGBTQ Pride Month Proclamation

Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2022 Budget/Constant Yield Tax Rate

#### Petitions and Requests

(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

#### Minutes of Council Meetings

#### Administrative Reports

#### Committee Reports

- \*- Public Safety Advisory Committee Report

### LEGISLATION

- City of Greenbelt Monthly Crime Reduction Plan

- Resolution- 2nd Reading, Adoption

- An Ordinance to Amend Article I "In General", "Section 8-4 "Absentee Voting" of Chapter 8, Elections" of the Greenbelt City Code - 2nd Reading, Adoption

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Maglev DEIS Transmittal Letter Final Comments

- Hire a Parliamentarian

- Change to Council Standing Rules - Petitions and Request

- Price Gouging

- Council Activities

- Council Reports

### MEETINGS-Scheduling of Future Meetings

**COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL** Cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv)

**Resident participation: Information will be posted on Meetings Calendar at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov)**

In advance the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov)

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR MAY 24-28

Monday, May 24 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING/2ND FY 2022 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING/ CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE, (Virtual)** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv)

Tuesday, May 25 at 3:30pm, **SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, Virtual

Tuesday, May 25 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION** On the Agenda: Feedback on Student Awards, Discussion of Calendar and Activities for 2021-2022 School Year, Discussion of 2021-2022 Budget, Discussion of Calendar for 2021-2022 School Year

Tuesday, May 25 at 7:30pm, **GREEN ACES**, Virtual

Wednesday, May 26 at 7:00pm, **MAGLEV TASK FORCE**, Virtual.

Wednesday, May 26 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/GEAC**,(stakeholder), Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv)

Thursday, May 27 at 7:00pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, On the Agenda: Maglev update, Dynamic Governance and respectful dialogue reminder, Discussion of if/how to encourage Council action on recent FPAB reports, Master Trail Plan, and Science Fund

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov).

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov).



### Greenbelt Recreation Summer Activity Guide

Available at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation)

Registration going on now!

Classes begin the week of June 14, 2021. Includes options for all ages and interests. Discover seasonal special events, varied recreation facilities and classes to provide opportunities for community celebrations. Learn something new or improve your skills in an activity you enjoy, all while socializing and staying active!

Visit our [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation) or call 301-397-2200 for more information.

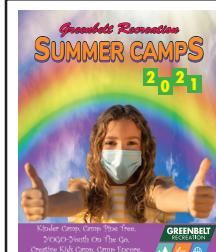


## NOT FOR SENIORS ONLY: DECLUTTER & DOWNSIZING

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

Virtual on Zoom; 1:00pm

Greenbelt's Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee hosts this annual workshop, open to all. Join local organizer and coach of Declutter Llama, Barbara Davis, on ways to clear out your clutter! Get motivated, get started and get it done! Find more information and sign up at <https://bit.ly/2R2fzvr>.



### Greenbelt Recreation Summer 2021 Camp Guide

NOW AVAILABLE!

Visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation) Registration going on now.

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

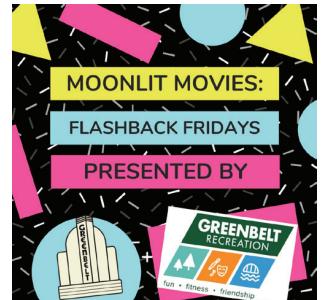
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000

### MOONLIT MOVIES

Braden Field , Behind the Youth Center Fridays



Tickets will be sold through Old Greenbelt Theatre. Purchase a circle for up to 5 household members at \$25 per circle. Event max participation is limited to 100 guests.

Visit <https://greenbeltheatre.org/> for more info.

## Town Hall: Gun Violence Prevention



Time: 7:00pm

Date: May 27, 2021

Location: Zoom

Email:[cares@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:cares@greenbeltdmd.gov)

Have you or some you know been the victim of a gun crime. Are you interested in learning about the harm caused to our community by violence?

Attend our Town Hall to discuss this important topic and how it is impacting the City of Greenbelt.

### Notice of Charter Amendment Resolution

At its regular meeting of April 26, 2021, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until June 5, at the Municipal Building and on the City's Web site [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov). Copies may also be requested of the City Clerk. It will become effective on June 15, 2021, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. As also required by state law, this notice is given to provide a fair summary of the resolution.

Charter Amendment Resolution Number 2021-1 (Resolution Number 2091) A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Amend Section 2 of the Charter of the City of Greenbelt, to amend Section 27 titled "Absentee Voting" by replacing with "Mail-In Voting" of the Greenbelt City Charter.

Purpose: To amend the City Charter to replace absentee voting with mail-in voting. Mail-in voting would allow voters to request a ballot (no reasons needed) to vote in the upcoming 2021 Council Election. However, the voters will still have the option to participate in early voting or in-person voting on Election Day.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk at 301-474-3870 or email [banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov)

Follow @cityofgreenbelt on Facebook and Twitter

### CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

Funds include: Good Samaritan Fund, Emergency Assistance Fund, Greenbelt Recreation, and Advisory Committee on Education.

Find out more at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/donations](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/donations).

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please note which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

### Buddy Attack Lake Heritage Walking Tour

Saturday, June 5  
10:00am - 12:00pm

Buddy Attack Lake Park  
555 Crescent Road

Learn about the storied history of Greenbelt's recreation development and current ecological efforts at Greenbelt Lake. conservation efforts.

See the full Greenbelt Day Weekend Schedule at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation)

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

### Crime Reduction

This ordinance was also presented by Byrd, who moved for a second reading and adoption, seconded by Councilmember Rodney Roberts. During the discussion, Davis reported that she had requested an estimate of the staff hours required to create the public safety plan but did not receive it. Jordan thought that the plan was already part of the annual budget. Putens agreed with Jordan and objected strongly to putting more requirements on the police when they aren't fully staffed, suggesting we "get out from under Covid first." Byrd responded that he didn't see asking for this plan as "pounding" on the department or "dumping" on them, but agreed it would result in additional work. He felt what the city is currently doing around crime is not enough. He wanted to imagine public safety as involving multiple city organizations in addition to the police, e.g., CARES and recreation as well as the public. He wanted to know "what the city can start doing differently and better" – not just a cut-and-paste on the next year's budget. He said, "We cannot just be the same old same old."

Davis moved to table the motion until there is an estimate by the city manager of how much effort is involved in fulfilling the request. Roberts was opposed to delay, noting that it was the city and council's job to work on the issue. He said, "We've supposedly been doing community policing for the last 30 years at least and we are not looking at updating our methods." Roberts thought council should "step up and think a little bit harder" and objected to cutting off discussion.

Byrd wanted to put a time-frame on Davis' request for information so it wouldn't be held up indefinitely. Davis said she is not trying to kill the motion but to get the information she had previously requested and suggested tabling for a month. Robert Snyder, speaking as a resident, commented that the proposal invited an extra layer of bureaucracy that we don't need and doesn't mention the several public safety and other citizen groups that would need to be included in such a forum. The motion to table was passed.

### Mail-in Voting

The measure would allow a mail-in ballot request with no reason required for voting in a council election. The amendment to the city charter was passed previously and the state has passed a recent amendment that affects mail-in and absentee voting. Resident Lore Rosenthal suggested mailing each Greenbelt resident a ballot rather than following the more convoluted process described in the ordinance.

### Recognition Groups

Recognition groups are community organizations that receive financial support from the city in the form of grants (\$78,000 in total last year). Recreation Coordinator Greg Varda supported a one-time recommendation for matching funds not to be needed for recognition groups in Fiscal Year 2021 given the difficulties encountered in fundraising during Covid-19 concerns. The measure passed unanimously with Varda adding that if the difficulty continued, the city could make adjustments as needed.

### Mask Rule Update

An attempt to update the city's position on mask rules outside came to a standstill, with the motion being withdrawn pending new county rulings. Discussion centered around the uncertainties of the "honor" system for wearing masks and the difficulties of enforcement as well as the lack of consistency among CDC, state and county policies. City policy remained (as of May 10) the same in requiring masks throughout the city.

### Compensation and Benefits

A motion to raise minimum city wages to \$15 by July 2021 was tabled until a planned salary and compensation study is done. Amidst an overall feeling that these initiatives needed to wait until the study (planned in the current budget) was completed, Roberts said that nothing about this initiative is premature and that he doesn't anticipate the

impact on the budget being enormous, while Putens was in favor of doing the research and looking at it fairly in comparison to other municipalities.

### Family Leave

In a related discussion on a separate motion to consider paid family leave, Davis noted that the federal, state and local governments allow for family leave and that the city's policy is in line with them. Employees are compensated from their annual or sick leave allowances and when those are exhausted, they are then unpaid. Byrd opined, in the face of the same argument to wait for the compensation study, that the city doesn't show a commitment to 21st century benefits and that having appropriate compensation should not be held hostage to a compensation study.

Byrd stated his commitment to consider the impact on our poorest employees. He notes that

the city has made many changes to compensation without a study (the last study was apparently in 2008). He also noted that having a policy that was unpaid was "a world of difference in a family."

Byrd offered to withdraw this motion but his second, Roberts, wouldn't withdraw his second. Jordan thought these were great suggestions but should have been made in December and not three-quarters of the way through the budget process. Byrd stated that the suggestion wasn't made earlier because the fiscal picture was still uncertain. The staff position, as noted in an email communication to council, is to wait until the compensation study is done.

Resident William Orleans pointed out that council had in the past been 100 percent in favor of raising its own pay based merely on a comparison with other municipalities. He noted that information was easily avail-

able to the public on compensation patterns in local municipalities and that there is enough data publicly available to show what is typical. The motion to draft family leave legislation failed.

### Reparations

In the previous meeting, controversy occurred over the outcome of a vote on consideration of reparations and the adding of a non-binding question on the topic to the ballot in the upcoming fall city elections. Roberts reiterated that he felt the vote (three for, zero against and four abstaining) was illegal. After some discussion, Roberts agreed that the question of the legality of that vote should be dealt with as a separate discussion. After a lightning-fast, real-time reference to the procedures by Davis, the motion to reconsider carried and so did the original motion to draft a question on reparations for placement on the ballot.



## NATIONAL POPPY DAY

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021



IN REMEMBRANCE  
OF THOSE WHO FELL  
PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM

*American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maryland*

Budget 2022

# Greenbelt Police Budget Includes Reform Possibilities

by Matthew Arbach

On May 3, the Greenbelt City Council had a comprehensive discussion with the Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) on its budgetary needs in the coming fiscal year, as well as the possibility of police reform in the city in light of the current national debate and the recent, unprecedented, state policing legislation and repeal of the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBOR). Chief Richard Bowers asserted his commitment to evolving new and more effective ways of answering service calls, looking to build partnerships with organizations like Greenbelt CARES. Bowers faced difficult questions throughout the meeting on the issues of officer accountability and the possibility of racial bias, though not in regard to any specific complaints against the police.

Bowers said that "this has been a difficult year" with the added challenges of the pandemic, made more so by the death of Corporal Christine Peters on January 14.

There have been many changes to the command staff, with Captain Gordon Pracht retiring after 26 years of service and Captain Tim White now running the administrative services section and in-house promotions throughout the department among other changes.

The proposed budget is \$10 million, a 6.5 percent decrease from last year, largely due to the departure of some long-term employees and the lower costs for new staff. Personnel accounts for 82 percent of the budget. Fuel and maintenance costs remain about the same.

Increased training is a major goal, reflected in more money allocated in the budget, as Bowers said the department looks to "up our game." With regard to officers, he said, the normal 40 training hours in a job that adds up to 2,000 hours per year is not enough for officers to be "flawless under stress." Bowers expects to add 80 more training

hours. De-escalation techniques, additional weapons training, implicit bias training and mental health are part of the program.

Staffing is a key issue for Bowers this year. The department is allocated 53 sworn officers, with 47 positions now filled. A primary goal is to retain staff as much as possible, as doing so provides better continuity and less of a fiscal burden from the cost of training new personnel. Bowers said that concerning recruiting, which the GPD is actively doing, "the pool of available candidates continues to shrink." He hopes to have a full staff in all levels of operations this year so the department can provide the full array of services that city residents are used to, a situation that is attractive to staff who remain because of the opportunity to provide a variety of services.

Bowers spoke about developing a co-responder program that would involve using outreach groups like Greenbelt CARES, the Boys and Girls Club, the county's Sante Group and homeless shelters, especially when it comes to mental health calls and possible follow-up care. These groups can augment police efforts, making up for the "finite resources" available from the city. These co-responder organizations can aid in the implementing of alternative strategies in crime prevention, taking away the "opportunity of crime" by addressing social and economic causes and offering a more "holistic" approach.

Bowers is awaiting further direction from the state and county on how the new state policing legislation will affect operations in Greenbelt. Protocols on the use of force, mandatory body cameras and civil disciplinary boards are key components. Greenbelt already requires body cameras which officers are assiduous in using, with protocols in place in case of complaints.

Police reform was a major

topic at the meeting. Resident Bob Rand was troubled by the lack of council-led discussion on the matter and its tardiness in addressing Mayor Colin Byrd's 2020 Fair and Just Policing Act. Resident Ric Gordon pressed for reform for "proactive" reasons so that a tragedy can be avoided and not reacted to, stressing that being pro-reform is not analogous to being anti-police. Byrd felt the city must do reform independently as well as in conjunction with this state legislation, emphasizing that in spite of considerable funds allocated, certain sections of the city do "not feel safe," requiring some kind of a change. Resident LaWann Stribling pressed for the community and police to "get to know each other," with all their cultural aspects. She stated that this would forestall conflicts. She also requested more programs for children to keep them out of "mischievous" caused by boredom.

Bowers asserted that the GPD provides "fair and impartial" treatment to all residents, with officers held accountable. Six officers have been removed as they were "not a good fit anymore," with City Manager Nicole Ard assuring the meeting that the officers' departures were not the result of their mistreatment of residents of color.

In general, consensus at the meeting was positive toward the police, with Byrd saying that the

See POLICE, page 9

## NASA Drama Club Stages Lady Windermere's Fan

NASA's Music and Drama club (MAD Theater) will present a staged reading of the play Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde, live online on Saturday, May 22, starting at 8 p.m. The play includes suspected affairs and other secrets among members of the aristocracy. As the drama builds, Oscar Wilde's wit and keen insight into human society shines through in the amusing dialog.

Greenbelt residents Penny Martin and Jon Gardner have roles in the play.

Director Randy Barth says, "While we're all looking forward

to a return to live productions, our play readings are a great opportunity for our members to continue performing for our audiences. Lady Windermere's Fan is a witty classic by Oscar Wilde (whose *The Importance of Being Ernest* MAD staged in 2000). The clever dialog makes it particularly suited to an online presentation, as opposed to a show that showcases physical comedy. We hope you'll enjoy seeing it as much as we have putting it together!"

The play can be viewed live via a link that will be posted at <https://www.madtheater.org/>.



SCREENSHOT BY RANDY BARTH

Party guests react to the arrival of the mysterious Mrs. Erlynne in MAD's production of *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Clockwise from top left are Mr. Dumbey (Jon Gardner), Lady Jedburgh (Penny Martin), Mrs. Erlynne (Cathy Barth) and Lady Windermere (Ashley Greeley).



## Top 11 Reasons to Shop at Beltway Plaza Mall

11. Small shops and restaurants are locally owned and managed
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9. Multiple bus routes to and from the Mall with bus stops on the parking lot
8. Taxis and Uber available on site
7. Curbside pick-up from Silver Diner, Target, Wendy's, Ms. Mabel's and more
6. Auto tag and title services available
5. Copying, shipping, and more from the FedEx Store
4. Lockers have been installed to safely secure all of your Amazon deliveries!
3. Plentiful parking
2. Rigid adherence to CDC Guidelines for Covid prevention

And the no. 1 reason to shop at Beltway Plaza Mall...

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Greenbelt Federal Credit Union

## BUDGET continued from page 1

every councilmember who spoke on the subject agreed that the city should not increase taxes.

The city had hoped for assistance from the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP). However, Gaymon and Councilmember Judith Davis reported that the program is still not well-defined and it is not clear how ARP funds could be used.

Two bits of good news were an increase of \$10,000 in the city's grant for recreation from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and a new pension estimate in the Information Technology department that is \$42,600 lower than previous estimates.

### Wish List

Council, especially Davis, has often chafed at the use of the term "wish list" to describe the potential additions to the proposed budget. However, with nearly \$1.5 million in possible additions to a budget with just \$1,000 excess of revenues over expenditures, the term seems particularly apt this year.

The initial list included eight additional employees over what was funded in City Manager Nicole Ard's proposed budget: filling the vacant assistant director of planning and community development position (\$151,000) and adding seven new positions – two code enforcement inspectors with equipment (\$158,400), a CARES case manager (\$77,000), a second Greenbelt Connection driver (\$48,000), two CARES counselors (\$150,000) and one additional animal control officer (\$65,280). In addition, the list includes an intern to assist the economic development coordinator for 12 weeks for \$3,600. Councilmember Rodney Roberts pointed out that adding staff creates an ongoing expense that would require funding in future years.

Other wish list items include additional funding for the armory assessment (\$120,000), a study on how best to utilize city office space (\$60,000), an expedited compensation study for non-classified employees (\$220,000), additional housing stipend and purchase assistance for police officers living/buying homes in Greenbelt (\$120,000), an updated Buddy Attick Park Master Plan process and study (\$30,000) plus five items costing less than \$10,000 each.

Despite this mismatch between wants and resources, the councilmembers added several more items at the meeting, mostly from Mayor Colin Byrd.

### Council Changes

Councilmember Emmett Jordan pushed for adding \$20,000 for a part-time employee or consultant to seek out and apply for grants and to ensure compliance with the terms of city grants. This could be particularly important, he noted, for any funds the city receives from the American Rescue Plan.

Councilmember Silke Pope added an urn wall for the city cemetery, although she was hesitant given the lack of funds for any of the wish list items.

Toward the end of the meeting, Byrd introduced \$650,000 in proposed new expenditures. These included \$150,000 for college scholarships, \$200,000 for student loan debt relief grants, \$40,000 for a summer youth enrichment program, \$120,000 for

a race and gender equity director, \$50,000 for tutoring grants and \$90,000 for a Greenbelt business plan competition to provide seed money for start-up businesses in the city. Byrd said that the city has relatively healthy reserves that could be used to fund his additions, a position that was immediately refuted by Roberts who countered that the reserve fund is for emergencies. The citizens of a small town, he said, should not have to bail out student loans. If council goes down the road of feeling that it can pay for everything, he argued, they will bankrupt the city.

### Discussion

Council went around in circles with no one suggesting any cuts to the proposed budget to allow funds to be redirected toward items from the wish list. Davis said that she would drop her requested additions including \$2,000 for the tree canopy support program, the animal control officer and the expedited compensation study for non-classified employees. Councilmember Leta Mach said that she would drop everything except the \$4,500 to expand the tile floor pilot program at the Aquatic & Fitness Center since that could be funded from the Park and Planning grant. In addition, the funds for the housing allowance and home buyer assistance were reduced by \$6,000.

Pope suggested just passing

the budget as proposed since it is not known where council could find the money for any additions, saying, "We need to get our priorities straight."

Council did not reach agreement on what changes to propose and expects to schedule another worksession to try to resolve the issue, though how they will do that is not clear. They are, however, just about out of time. The city charter requires that council approve a budget no later than June 10 and budget adoption is currently scheduled for the June 7 regular council meeting.

Even with no discretionary additions, council needs to fill the \$200,000 hole created by the new workers compensation premiums.

At the time this was written, the additional worksession had not yet been scheduled. It is possible that this meeting may be advertised only online given the limited time remaining. Residents can set alerts on the city website to be notified of the meeting.

### Armory

The inclusion of funds for the armory assessment stirred considerable conversation. Roberts, Mach and Councilmember Edward Putens, in particular, argued for obtaining the building as soon as possible. Public Works has received bids for the assessment and expects the issue to go before council in June. The News Review will report further on the armory in the near future.

## Elon Musk's Hyperloop Fails to Move Forward

by David Lange

A recent report from the Federal Highway Administration indicated that the tunnel transit system proposed by Elon Musk, also known as the Hyperloop, had failed to progress any further since its preliminary stages. The Hyperloop was to have offered a high-speed D.C. to Baltimore transit system and included paired tunnels for automated electric cars traveling up to 150 mph,

which could have resulted in significant construction and infrastructure activity in Greenbelt.

Although the project initially attracted support from Governor Larry Hogan and an initial conditional permit was issued by the state, nothing has moved forward with the proposition since a preliminary draft environmental assessment in 2019.



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Greenbelt 301.474.4144 | Shipley's Choice Medical Park 410.987.8800

## Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Restaurants in Greenbelt welcome diners back inside.



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS



PHOTO BY RAHUL MEHTA

Brood X has started to emerge after 17 years.

**MAY 25**

**BRIDGING COMMUNITIES TO STOP THE VIOLENCE**

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD & OTHERS

**TUESDAY MAY 25, 6:30PM**

**GATHERING IN FRONT OF GREENBELT LIBRARY**

**FOLLOWED BY MARCH TO SPELLMAN OVERPASS**

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- CONNECT COMMUNITIES

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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, Dr. Richard Duarte, and Dr. David McCarl are licensed general dentists.

# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

## Robbery

May 8, 1:47 a.m., 6925 Hanover Parkway. A man walking through Schrom Hills Park was approached from behind by an unknown person who placed a gun against him, went through his pockets and took money before he fled on foot.

## Assault

May 11, 10:47 p.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. A man approached a woman in Laundromand laundromat and told her there was a spider on her. He then rubbed up against her and fled.

## Fraud

May 12, 2:10 p.m., 4 Court Hillside. A woman dropped a letter containing a check in the U.S. Postal Service mailbox near Crescent Road and Eastway on April 17. Unknown person(s) gained possession of it, changed the amount and the name of the payee and then deposited it.

## Theft

May 6, 5:06 p.m., 65 Court Ridge Road. Two older teens attempted to steal a bicycle but dropped it and fled.

May 11, 6 p.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. A man approached a woman who was walking through the parking lot of Bank of America after withdrawing money, which she had put in a plastic bag. He took her bag of money and fled on foot.

## Trespassing

May 5, 10:50 p.m., 6108 Breezewood Court. A 47-year-old resident was arrested and charged

with trespassing by officers who responded to a report of a person acting suspiciously. He was released on citation and then transported to a local hospital for a medical evaluation.

## Burglary

May 6, 3:50 a.m., 9123 Springhill Lane. Clothing and money were removed from an unlocked apartment.

May 7, 1:10 p.m., 5707 Cherrywood Lane. A 25-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with theft, trespassing, malicious destruction, two counts of second-degree assault and resisting arrest after officers responded to a report of a trespasser vandalizing merchandise at the Shell Food Mart. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

## Vandalism

May 11, 9:12 a.m., 6220 Breezewood Drive. A possible BB gun was used to break out a window of a residence.

## Vehicle Crime

One vehicle was reported taken on May 6 from 6114 Breezewood Court, a white 2017 Hyundai Elantra with Illinois tags 804760.

Two tags, Maryland 3CS7876, were taken from 7700 block Ora Court on May 11.

A catalytic converter was removed from the undercarriage of a vehicle in 17 Court Ridge Road on May 11.

A total of ten handicapped placards were reported stolen,

six on May 6. All of them were taken from throughout Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West.

An attempted theft occurred on May 7 in 5 Court Ridge Road, when an officer on patrol saw a man underneath a vehicle that had been jacked up. The man fled. Investigation revealed that the catalytic converter had been partially removed from the undercarriage.

Three vehicles were rummaged through after windows were broken out to gain access. These occurred at 9114, 9164 and 9168 Edmonston Road on May 8.

Windows were broken out in one vehicle at 8009 Mandan Road and another at 221 Lakeside Drive, both on May 11.

## POLICE continued from page 7

community should "celebrate" its efforts. Both he and Gordon said they had done ride-alongs with officers and expressed admiration for their work.

Councilmember Judith Davis said that, while "not broadcasting" their efforts, council has been active in police reform issues and dealing with crime in the city. She expects to work with the county and state on the new police reforms and see what Greenbelt is already doing. Regarding crime, council is trying to ascertain budgetary needs and preferably not raise taxes, whether it means hiring more officers or developing alternative strategies. Councilmember Emmett

Jordan said that police reform is "a moving target," with changes arriving swiftly, and stressed the need "not to rush into" responses until all the factors are accounted for. Ard laid out a variety of city, county and state resources already in place to provide a huge range of social services.

Bowers said he felt that the community and the police "have a lot of common ground" about the desire for a just, equitable and effective police force, with the main issue being "how we get there," incorporating different perspectives to reach "the finish line at the same time." He acknowledged, however, that this can be a painful process.

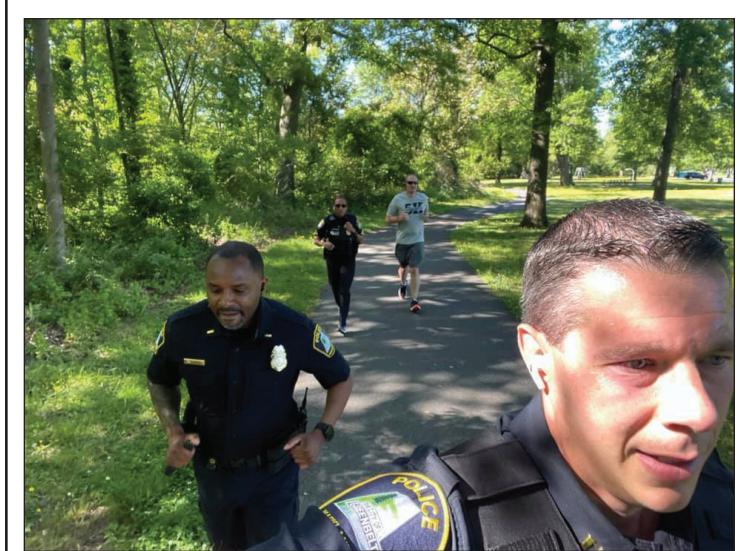


PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Detective Konetta Brown, Lieutenant Jermaine Gulledge, and Captain Tim White join members of the University of Maryland Police Department on May 13 to run the National Police Week 5K in memory of Cpl. Chris Peters.



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## Greenbelt Listings!



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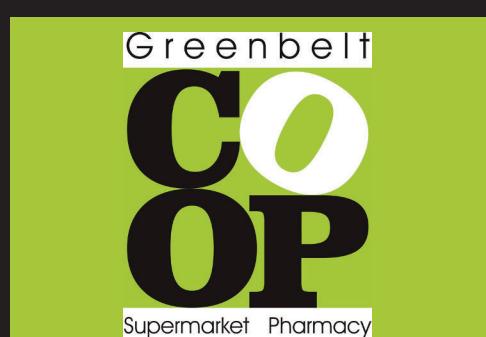
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MISHKAN TORAH synagogue in Greenbelt seeks a very part time bookkeeper. This position is a 4-6 hour a week position. Remote work is possible and will be considered for the ideal candidate. Knowledge of QuickBooks and Excel, payroll, vendor payments, reconciling bank statements, generating budgets and tax documents a must. For the full job description, please contact: [ExecutiveVP@MishkanTorah.org](mailto:ExecutiveVP@MishkanTorah.org).

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## YARD/MOVING SALES

YARD SALE – Saturday, May 22, 8a.m.-1p.m. 22 Ridge, across from GRH. Household items, clothes (incl. Plus sizes), jewelry, scarves, pictures and more.

YARD SALE – Saturday, May 22, 9:00-1:00. Corner of Ridge Rd. and Plateau Pl. Lots of stuff - CDs, kitchen, books, Christmas, fabrics, glassware, household. Most items priced \$1-\$2-\$3.



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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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My Perspective

# SCMaglev Project DEIS Defers Consideration of Safety Issues

by Donna Hoffmeister



The maglev train crash in Lathen, Germany

Since 2016, Louis Cerny has been trying to warn about safety problems with the proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev. He is a self-employed railway engineering consultant who has been involved with maglev issues since the late 1980s. He states that his motivation is for Maryland not to have a maglev accident like the one that killed 23 people in Lathen, Germany on September 22, 2006.

He is concerned that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project states that safety rules (called Rules of Particular Applicability or RPAs) need not be developed until after construction starts (DEIS appendix G7, part 3, page 4).

He feels it defies logic to authorize construction of such a costly and locally disruptive transportation facility without having determined the safety rules that govern it, or even if it can meet U.S. safety standards.

He is asking people to urge the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to not issue a Record of Decision (ROD) permitting construction on the Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev project until it has determined RPA safety rules for the vehicles, guideway (including switches), bridges and operating practices of the SC-Maglev system. Safety standards (RPAs) for the vehicles will influence the weight of the vehicles which in turn will affect the design of the guideway and bridges.

Comments are due by Monday, May 24 to SCMaglev c/o Lauren Molesworth, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 Saint Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21202, or by emailing info@bwmaglev.info.

Cerny says that U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) safety experts, including those at the DOT Volpe Center in Cambridge, Mass., should examine the safety of the SCMaglev system. Statements of foreign governments certifying safety should not be relied on. This is clear from the example of the German government certifying the safety of their maglev train, but then 23 people (constituting 70 percent of the passengers of the lightly loaded maglev train) were killed in the 2006 maglev accident.

U.S. safety standards applicable to Amtrak should not be ignored just because it is a maglev train. There is no physical restraint in the guideway hardware to keep the levitated vehicle from rising out of it.

A U.S. safety analysis needs to be done on the rubber-tire mode in which the SCMaglev will normally operate at speeds up to 93 mph (and possibly over 300 mph in emergencies). The safety aspects of having to maintain parts of the vehicles at the 450 degrees below zero needed for superconductivity also need to be addressed. That this will be an automated, driverless system also needs scrutiny.

Perhaps most importantly, says Cerny, U.S. safety experts need to evaluate the dangers of the electromagnetic radiation involved in SCMaglev operation. The DEIS shows shielding needed at passenger stations and on the vehicles, but is this sufficient and how secure is it from leakage?

## City Notes

Horticulture/Parks prepared their greenhouse, received plant deliveries and installed interpretive signs at the Firefly Sanctuary. Sustainability/Environmental worked with an Eagle Scout installing bird and bee houses and produced maps and a video about maglev impacts.

After one adoption, the Animal Shelter hosts three dogs, four cats, eight kittens and a rabbit. Park rangers assisted several groups seeking permits for park use.

Refuse/Recycling collected 28.67 tons of refuse and 11.15 tons of recyclables.

Preschoolers brought their bikes and practiced safety skills. The outdoor pool was inspected by the county prior to opening.

The Community Center welcomed new Coordinator Rose Commins. Center and Arts staff coordinated with conservators cleaning the Lenore Thomas sculptures. Arts hosted an Art Share, ceramic raku firing and a family sculpture workshop. Therapeutic Recreation facilitated a Golden Age Club meeting and meal delivery for 39 seniors.

CARES' Darren Stephenson received the Governor's Citation for six years of Juvenile Justice service.

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**Estate Sale** GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

**Brick Townhome with Addition** Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

**Large floorplan w/addition** Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

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**Brick Townhome - Corner Lot**  
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**Townhome with 2 additions** 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced, corner lot. Large family room addition in back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

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**Charlestowne Village** Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With Stainless Steel appliances.

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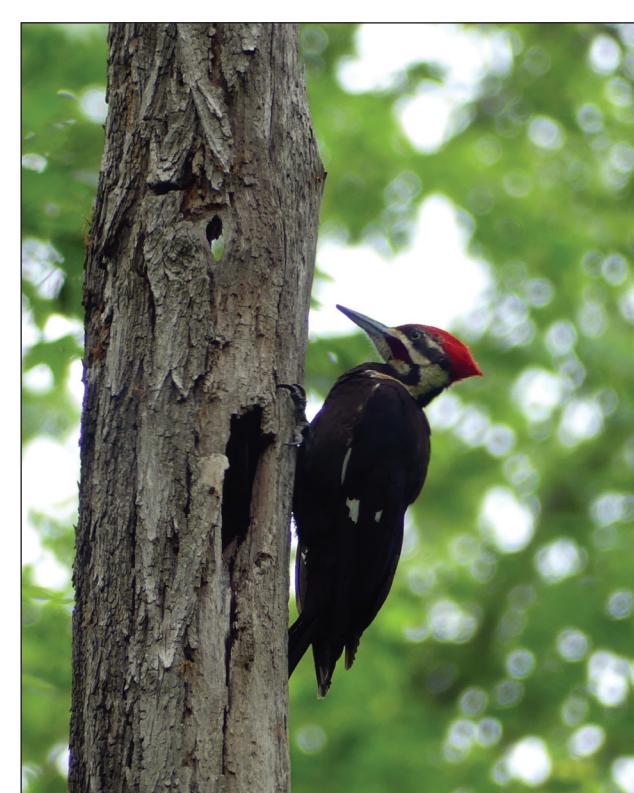
**Brick Townhome** 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood flooring on both levels.

**Upper Level One Bedroom** GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

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## Former President Hangs Out at Greenbelt Vax Site

by Amy Hansen

"Hi, Everybody. This is Barack Obama and I'm in Greenbelt, Maryland." Former President Obama strode through the Greenbelt Metro Vaccination site on May 6, waving and occasionally stopping to connect elbows with someone in a jovial, Covid-safe greeting. The visit was a surprise to most of the people who worked there and all of the people getting vaccinated, but Obama was on a mission to make a short video encouraging everyone to get vaccinated.

"I want to especially thank our amazing troops who are here," Obama said, acknowledging Air Force and Coast Guard workers. He then turned to the line of surprised visitors waiting for their vaccine.

"And for those of you who are getting your vaccination, way to be good citizens!"

The Greenbelt Metro Community Vaccination Center is managed by FEMA with most of the staff coming from active duty and reserve troops. The site recently celebrated 100,000 vaccinations given since it opened



Former President Barack Obama visits the FEMA vaccination site at the Greenbelt Metro Station on Thursday, May 6.

## VACCINE continued from page 1

serve the community and we will continue to do so."

The center, located in the Greenbelt Metro Station parking lot, is currently providing Johnson & Johnson vaccinations. The free vaccine only requires one shot, not two, and is approved for individuals 18 years and older according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is provided by appointment but the center accepts walk-ins also. Ap-

pointments can be scheduled at massvax.maryland.gov.

Reasonable accommodation for people with access and functional needs is available as well as on-site interpretation in eight spoken languages, American Sign Language, Certified Deaf Interpretation and Sensory Interpretation.

The Greenbelt Metro Community Vaccination Center is open seven days a week through June 1. The hours of operation are Mondays and Tuesdays from 7

a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The federally operated center is a joint effort between the State of Maryland, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland Department of Health, the Department of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



PHOTO COURTESY FEMA

The FEMA vaccination site at the Greenbelt Metro Station administers its 100,000th vaccine.

VISIT [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

## MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY VOTERS SUPPORT MAGLEV

The residents of Prince George's County were asked: *Do you support the construction and operation of a high speed Maglev train between Baltimore and Washington, D.C.?*

SUPPORT 68%

UNDECIDED 13%

OPPOSE 19%



Among those polled, 42% showed strong support for the Baltimore to Washington Maglev project.

The survey paints a clear picture of overwhelming public support across a range of demographics, including varying age groups, ethnic backgrounds, and genders for construction and operation of the Northeast Maglev.



Learn more at [northeastmaglev.com](http://northeastmaglev.com) and [@northeastmaglev](https://www.twitter.com/northeastmaglev) on social media.



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